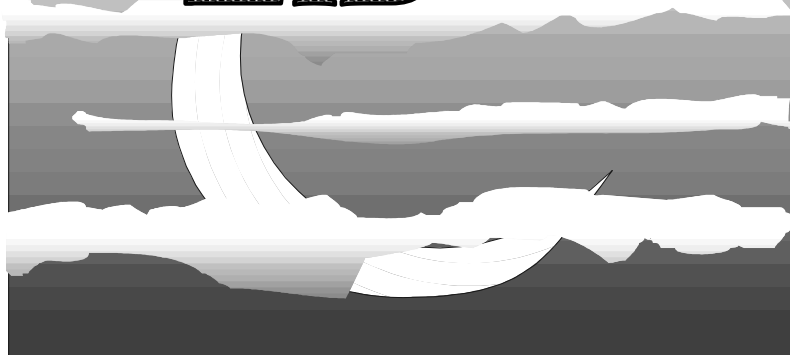


THE EID HILAA



OUTSIDE REPORTS UN-ACCEPTABLE

Fitnah of the Radio Announcement

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THE EID HILAAL OUTSIDE REPORTS UN-ACCEPTABLE

FITNAH OF THE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT

RECENTLY, on the 30th night of Ramadhaan, the radio ‘mufti’ in a subtle fitnah move, announced over the air that the hilaal for Eid was sighted in Zimbabwe. He strongly advocated acceptance of the news emanating from Zimbabwe and canvassed the idea of the feasibility of Eid on Thursday, inspite of the fact that the local Ulama of all the provinces had announced that Eid would be on Friday.

The radio ‘mufti’ announced the news of the Zimbabwe sighting at about 9 p.m. along with his heartfelt desire for Eid on Thursday in unification with Zimbabwe. His first and fundamental, but calculated error, was to rush to the air to blow a lot of hot air, instead of complying with the Qur’aanic command:

“And, when there comes to them a report, either of safety or fear, they broadcast it. (But) if they had referred it to the Rasool and to the Ulul Amr (leaders), then they who have expertise (insight in) such issues, will know (what to do about) it.”
(Aayat 84, Surah Nisaa’)

Inspite of being fully aware that the Ulama had taken a decision on Eid – that it would be on Friday – and inspite of the

announcement to this effect having been earlier made to the Muslim community of South Africa, the radio ‘mufti’ deemed it prudent for spreading confusion, to stupidly, and in violation of the Qur’aanic command, make his unilateral announcement. The quandary created by the radio broadcaster, constrained the Jamiats to convene a meeting to decide the issue. After two hours of horse-trading, which was unrelated to the Shar’i *mas’alah* pertaining to the hilaal, but which concerned the logistics of making a reversal announcement, and the countrywide confusion which would result in the event the Zimbabwe hilaal news emanating from a Salafi being accepted, it was proclaimed that Eid would be on Friday. Thus, the Zimbabwe-Salafi transmission was rejected.

A learned man or any responsible man of *Aql* would not have rushed to the air for some cheap publicity sewing confusion and fitnah in the community. If he had news of importance concerning the entire community, then in terms of the Qur’aan he was under obligation to silently refer the matter to those leaders of the community who decide such issues. In the first instance, the alien piece of news should never have been entertained for discussion. The meeting exercise was a waste of time and merely abetted the spread of confusion in the community. Since the South African Muslim community has absolutely no history of accepting news from outside the country, those who have assumed upon themselves the role of apprising the community of the occasion of Eid, should have summarily dismissed the news and the radio ‘mufti’s’ pleadings for Eid on Thursday. The two-hour horse-trading meeting was a wasteful exercise in redundancy.

OUTSIDE REPORTS

In the past, on a number of occasions, the Muslim community had experienced confusion, enmity and fitnah when the

leadership was split on the hilaal issue. Consensus could not be achieved on reports of sightings emanating from even within the confines of the country's borders. In consequence of such disagreement, Eid was held on different days in the same towns. Entertaining reports from other countries will be a recipe for greater and more frequent confusion and fitnah. Avoidable splits in the community will be unnecessarily created if hilaal news from Zimbabwe and other countries is even considered for the purpose of Eid in South Africa.

The reliability of such news is highly questionable. The news of Zimbabwe's sighting was conveyed by people of Salafi leanings, and announced by a radio which lacks in Shar'i qualifications. To say the very least, the radio 'mufti' demonstrated his gross irresponsibility by having made an announcement which in the context of the South African Muslim community was weird, and whose unhealthy agenda was conspicuous, and made even more glaring by the radio broadcaster's plea for Eid on Thursday.

From Zimbabwe it will extend to Saudi Arabia from whence the ghair muqallideen originate. The ultimate aim is to impose Saudi hegemony over the Muslim community throughout the world – a scheme doomed to failure. Saudi-educated molvis and sheikhs are the ambassadors who have been deputed to subtly infiltrate the ranks of Muslim communities in other countries to achieve the Saudi hegemony. The very first essential qualification which ghair muqallideen lack is *Taqwa*. Hence their word on Shar'i *masaa-il* cannot be accepted. People who revile Imaam Abu Hanifah (rahmatullah alayh) are among the *Ahl-e-Bid'ah* and *Ahl-e-Fussaaq*. Their testimony on Shar'i issues is unacceptable.

There is no imperative need to unite with Zimbabwe and Saudi Arabia on the Eid issue. The South African Muslim community had never looked beyond the borders of the country for celebrating Eid. There is no need today for changing this system which we have followed from the time our forefathers settled in this country. Radio stations and Salafis will not be allowed to hold the Muslim community at ransom. The radio ‘mufti’ should not labour under the misconceived contortion that the ability to scream over the air invests him with authority to dictate to the Muslim community and to decide issues for it. *Alien reports of hilaal sighting are simply unacceptable here.*

WARNING

The Ulama who sit in conference with the radio ‘mufti’ should not allow themselves to be duped by the men of Salafi leanings. Gross and intensive misuse and abuse of the radio station are being perpetrated. Should the Ulama who are responsible for making Eid declarations to their respective communities succumb to the dictates and desires of those who are peddling the idea of Eid with Zimbabwe, etc., they should understand that conflict and controversy will be in the making. While today there is relative harmony on the Eid issue, a hornet’s nest will be disturbed by accepting reports from outside the country. How will the Muslim community benefit from such controversy which will most certainly lead to Eid on different days in South Africa.

The stand of the Mujlisul Ulama is unambiguous on this issue. We shall not accept or even entertain any hilaal sighting reports from outside the country. If

necessary, we shall celebrate Eid on a different day, even if Eid Salaat is held in a local Eidgah as a result of a section accepting the alien report.

We hope and pray that sagacity will prevail in the ranks of those who decide for their communities. The issue is simple. Reject outside reports and maintain the unity of Eid in the country and the harmony of the community. The Ulama should be alert to the Salafi threat which is worse than the Shiah threat.

THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THEIR TESTIMONY

The testimony of both the radio ‘mufti’ and the Zimbabwean molvi is inadmissible in the Shariah for the following reasons:

THE MOVLI

- The senior Ulama of the country claim that he is a Salafi engaged in subtle propagation of Salaf’ism under cover of the Hanafi Math-hab.

- He conducted himself in a highly irresponsible manner by conveying his moon-sighting episode to an Islamically *persona non grata* radio molvi, instead of communicating directly with the Ulama who are in charge of making Ramadhaan and Eid declarations to their respective communities. This neo-salafi molvi is aware of the Ulama structures existing in South Africa, yet he chose the publicity stunt-route of the appendage of shaitaan, viz., the haraam radio channel.
- This molvi performs for television audiences. He appears on television thereby confirming his fisq status.

THE RADIO ‘MUFTI’

There is a formidable array of factors of *fisq* and *fujoor* which disqualifies the radio ‘mufti’ from testifying on Shar’i issues. Among these are:

- While ostensibly a Hanafi, he propagates Salafi’ism since he is employed by those of Salafi’ persuasion.
- He is associated with an institution – the Shaitaani Radio Channel – which indulges in zina – zina of the voice and heart, and of the eyes, etc., by the haraam employment of female broadcasters.
- The radio with which he is associated allows homosexuals, shiahs, grave-worshippers and all types of Ahl-e-Baatil to propagate their *kufir*, *fisq* and *fujoor* over the radio’s channel.
- Participation and promotion of competitions akin to gambling in which the Qur’aan Majeed is subjected to mockery and amusement.
- Defilement of the sanctity of the Qur’aan Majeed by advertising its verses in kuffaar gutter-type, toilet newspapers which invite readers to acts of zina with the publication of pictures of 99% nude females.

- Promoting the kufr idea that wearing the trousers below the ankles is permissible.
- Claiming that 8 raka'ts Taraaweeh is valid and permissible. In so doing this errant 'mufti' has rejected the 14 century *Ijma'* of the Four Math-habs.
- Organizing functions of mixed audiences – males and females – and selling 'Sadqah' by inviting Muslims to pay R100 for a platter of food. Organization of and participation in such frivolous functions in the name of the Deen, is a mockery of Islam. Nafsaaniyat is peddled under cover of the Deen.

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